



# WISCONSIN STATE SENATE SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICATION

## 2014

**A rewarding program in leadership, education and public service.**



The Senate Scholar Program is an intensive week-long educational program offered by the Wisconsin State Senate. Admission to the program is highly competitive and is limited to 33 academically exceptional high school juniors and seniors from around Wisconsin. Each Senate Scholar receives a hands-on, up-close view of the Legislature's role in our democracy. Senate Scholars gain experience in such diverse areas as policy development, constituent relations, and processing legislation by working with Senators, legislative staff and University of Wisconsin faculty.



# 2014

## Wisconsin State Senate

### SCHOLAR PROGRAM

## APPLICATION AND PROGRAM INFORMATION

### ELIGIBILITY

The Senate Scholar Program is open to Wisconsin high school juniors and seniors aged 16-18. The program is also open to qualified individuals who are homeschooled. Each Senate Scholar must have outstanding academic qualifications and experiences that demonstrate an ability to perform tasks with a high degree of responsibility. Applicants may also be subject to additional requirements imposed by their high school.

### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Application decisions are made by an admissions committee composed of the Chief Clerk and Director of Operations, the Sergeant at Arms, and select legislative staff. The Wisconsin State Senate does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, national origin or ancestry, or any other basis prohibited by law. The Wisconsin State Senate will make reasonable accommodations in the application process and program for individuals with disabilities.

### CURRICULUM

Senate Scholars engage in a variety of experiences during their stay in the program. Typical activities may include attending floor debates in the Senate Chamber, committee hearings, and seminars conducted by individuals involved in the legislative process such as lobbyists, reporters, legislative staff, Governor's staff, and a Supreme Court Justice.

In addition, Senate Scholars will be required to engage in mock legislative activities, such as bill and amendment drafting, policy analysis, fiscal analysis, constituent communications, and lobbying. These activities will culminate in a mock legislative hearing at which Senate Scholars will provide and obtain public testimony and then hold an executive session to vote a bill out of committee. Parents and relatives are encouraged to attend this hearing.

At the close of the program, there will be an awards reception at which certificates will be conferred upon the Senate Scholars. Parents and relatives are invited and encouraged to attend this event too.

### FUN ACTIVITIES

Although the rigorous curriculum is itself an enjoyable challenge, fun evening activities are also planned for each group of Senate Scholars. Typical activities may include movies, bowling at University of Wisconsin-Madison's Union South, mini-golfing, games, a campfire at Picnic Point, sporting and cultural events, and dining at local restaurants.

### HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Each Senate Scholar is required to stay at the Concourse Hotel in downtown Madison. The rooms are non-smoking, single occupancy and the cost is included in the tuition fee. The hotel is located one block from the State Capitol. Program Facilitators from the Senate Sergeant at Arms staff also stay at this hotel and, along with the Sergeant at Arms, are available to Senate Scholars 24 hours a day. It is the responsibility of each Senate Scholar to obtain transportation to and from Madison.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

Although a significant level of supervision will be provided, each Senate Scholar is responsible for governing his or her own behavior. Each Senate Scholar is required to sign a code of conduct, which includes a promise not to consume alcoholic beverages or illegal substances during participation in the program. Any participant found in violation of the code of conduct may be dismissed from the program without refund of tuition, and his or her parent or guardian will be required to arrange transportation home for the individual. In addition, the individual's school and State Senator will be notified of the dismissal from the program.

### TUITION

The fee for attending the 2014 Senate Scholar Program is \$250. This fee includes the cost of lodging, lunches, and dinners. This fee is due by February 3, 2014, following acceptance into the program. Applicants are encouraged to solicit groups and businesses or their school for sponsorship to defray the cost of tuition.

### SPENDING MONEY

The tuition fee of \$250 covers lodging, lunches and dinners. Scholars will need to bring money for breakfast as the group goes to restaurants around the Capitol Square. Breakfast costs will range from \$7 to \$12. Personal spending money for the evenings is also recommended. It is our experience that Scholars bring \$75-\$100 for the week.

## HOW TO APPLY

Each individual wishing to become a Senate Scholar must provide the following:

- ☐ Resume.
- ☐ Completed Application.
- ☐ Completed Senate Scholar Examination.
- ☐ Cover Letter.
- ☐ Completed Essay.
- ☐ Official transcripts indicating that the applicant has maintained at least the equivalent of a “B” average.
- ☐ Letter of nomination from the applicant’s State Senator.
- ☐ Letter of recommendation from a teacher or school administrator, attached to the enclosed recommendation form. The letter may not be written by a relative of the applicant.
- ☐ Letter of recommendation from another person familiar with the applicant’s skills and abilities, attached to the enclosed recommendation form. The letter may not be written by a relative of the applicant, but may be written by another teacher.

## QUESTIONS

If you have any questions concerning the program or the application process, please contact Cyrus Anderson, Program Administrator, or Erin Allers, Program Facilitator at (608) 266-2610 or email [senatescholar@legis.wi.gov](mailto:senatescholar@legis.wi.gov)

## ADDITIONAL APPLICATION MATERIALS

A digital copy of the application and additional application materials may be downloaded from the following legislative website: [www.senatescholar.com](http://www.senatescholar.com)

## MAIL APPLICATION MATERIALS

All application materials must be received by January 3, 2014. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance by January 17, 2014. Please mail all application materials to:

**Cyrus Anderson**  
**Office of the Senate Sergeant at Arms**  
**P.O. Box 7882**  
**Madison, WI 53707-7882**